

the Bozeman High School Marching Band took its place in parade history.

The band, 298 teen-agers strong, marched the five-and-a-half mile route Friday through the heart of this Southern California city.

"I'm felling awesome," said junior Brandon Warwood during a brief break eight blocks from the end of the 110th Tournament of Roses Parade. "I could do this all day."

An estimated one million spectators, seated in stadium bleachers, lawn chairs and on the curb, lined the streets for the New Year's Day spectacle. They took to the roof tops of local businesses and apartment buildings. They built makeshift bleachers with step-ladders and wooden boards, topping the seats with blankets for padding.

Many shouted praise and cheers for the Bozeman band, whose members wore their stately, wool uniforms of black, red and silver.

"Go Bozeman."

"Looking good."

"Happy New year."

"Take the cold weather home with you."

Parade-goers left a trail of confetti, silly string and tortillas along the parade route.

Bozeman's appearance here was a first in the school's history and is certainly a rarity among Montana high schools. Many young musicians were still trying to comprehend their arrival here during the hour before the parade start at 9 a.m.

"It doesn't seem real," said freshman Jamie Booth. "It is so much bigger than any parade we've ever been in."

For Jeff Knacht, a 1998 Bozeman High graduate, Friday's event was a chance of a lifetime.

"We actually get to do it—a little nowhere town in Montana," said an amazed Knacht, one of half a dozen or so recent graduates asked to rejoin the band for this parade.

A full moon shone over the group as it made its way from a hotel in Buena Park, Calif., to Pasadena in the early morning. The band arrived in Pasadena at 8 a.m. MST, sleepy and groggy after the more than an hour drive.

On one of seven buses carrying band members to the parade the sounds of the Beach Boys and Aretha Franklin blared from the charter's sound system, courtesy of a Los Angeles radio station. The music prompted some musicians to dance in the aisle and sing along.

But the students' attention soon turned to more important tasks like adjusting chin straps and warming up their hands.

Band director Russ Newbury called a last minute check for all instruments.

A sense of nervousness and excitement loomed as band members settled in their positions and waited to take spot No. 71—behind the Araret Shrine Mounted Guard and its 17 horses and in front of an impressive float with a giant pair of Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Angel Medina, of California, knows the importance of a good seat. His grandson spent the night babysitting eight empty chairs on Colorado Boulevard to ensure the family had good views of the floats and bands.

"It's more fun to be closer," Medina said. "You can talk to the participants and even shake their hands."

Bozemen's marchers earned high marks from Medina, who admitted he's a huge fan of a good parade.

"It is always a beautiful day for a parade," he said.

Almost two hours after the Bozeman band began this parade trek, members passed a child holding a Magna Doodle that read: "Almost there."

Minutes later, the Bozeman High School Marching Band completed its journey with

sore feet, much pride and a desperate thirst for water.●

MOTHER GERALDINE WRIGHT'S BIRTHDAY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor an outstanding individual, Mother Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright, on the occasion of her birthday on Sunday, February 28, 1999.

Mother Geraldine Wright, the wife of one of the nation's most prominent Bishops, the Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., the mother of three children, Earl Jr., Michael and Marvie; has learned how to labor in the ministry standing beside her husband and helping him in the work. This task is not new to Mother Wright—her lineage is made up of a host of leaders. Her father was a Bishop, her brother is a Bishop, and she has a brother-in-law who is also a Bishop.

Mother Geraldine Wright is an extraordinary example of what one can achieve through tenacity and a giving and loving heart. Through her love for God, family, church, and others, Mother Wright has made an impact in the lives of many hurting people. She untiringly stands by her husband's side, she visits and ministers to the sick, encourages others, helps others, gives to others, prays for others, but most of all, she is a trainer and builder of others. Training individuals to love God and work for the Lord seems to be one very important aspect of her calling.

Along with being the First Lady and Director of the Women's Department of Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ and the Davis Memorial Church of God in Christ, Mother Wright is also a District Missionary in the New Creation District of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan. She is the Founder of the Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright Institute for Women in the Ministry, which is one of Mother Wright's most outstanding accomplishments. This Institute serves as a catalyst of change in the lives of many young women who have dedicated their lives to the service and calling of the Lord Jesus Christ. Proverbs 31:28-30 sums up Mother Geraldine Wright best. It reads as follows:

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own words praise her in the gates.

So let it be known on this day, Sunday, February 28, 1999, that Mother Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright has been a leader of women and has impacted this nation and world, has left an indelible mark on the history of mankind.●

NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I note with great pride that the President has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Bill Lann Lee, a native of my State of California, to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice.

The Senate will recall that Bill Lann Lee was nominated for this post more than a year and a half ago, in July 1997. His nomination died in the Judiciary Committee at the end of the 105th Congress. The majority of that Committee denied the full Senate a vote on the nomination because it knew Bill Lann Lee would have been confirmed if a vote had been taken.

Mr. President, I hope that the Judiciary Committee will not make the same mistake twice. Bill Lann Lee is fully qualified for this position. Indeed, I believe that he is the best person for the position. His personal history and his professional credentials both make him the perfect candidate to be Assistant Attorney for Civil Rights.

Bill Lann Lee was born in Harlem, the son of immigrants. He learned early in life about patriotism, from his father, who volunteered for military service in World War II in order to serve the adopted country that he loved so much. Bill Lee also learned from his parents, who ran a laundry, the value of hard work, a good education, and commitment to excellence.

Bill Lee spent most of his 24-year legal career with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, which was founded by Thurgood Marshall. He also spent several years in the 1980's working for the Center for Law in the Public Interest. Throughout his career, Bill Lee has demonstrated a talent for consensus building—surely one of the most important attributes for the top civil rights job.

Elected officials and other leaders from both parties have strongly endorsed Bill Lann Lee, including Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who said, in a letter to the White House: "Mr. Lee has practiced mainstream civil rights law. He does not believe in quotas. He has pursued flexible and reasonable remedies that in each case were approved by a court."

He has the endorsement of the National District Attorneys Association, which wrote: "... as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he will remain fully cognizant of the need and expectations of the people of the U.S. to be provided effective, efficient and fair law enforcement services. . . . he will do his utmost to ensure that honest and hardworking police officers are not tarnished by the acts of a few miscreants."

I join the many people across the country—lawyers, law enforcement, elected officials, and others—who want the Senate to finally confirm this splendid nominee for this very important post.●